

7.5 percent, 0.8 percentage points higher than it was in 1968 (6.7 percent).

The unemployment rate for whites was 3.8 percent in 2017 and 3.2 percent in 1968.

The unemployment data for these two years, almost 50 years apart, demonstrate a longstanding and unfortunate economic regularity: the unemployment rate for black workers is consistently about twice as high as it is for white workers.

Today, hourly wage black workers who could get jobs still only made 82.5 cents on every dollar earned by the typical white worker.

In, 1968, black infants were about 1.9 times as likely to die as white infants; today, the infant mortality rate is 2.3 times higher for African Americans.

On average, an African American born today can still expect to live about 3.5 fewer years than a white person born on the same day.

In 1968, African Americans were about 5.4 times as likely as whites to be in prison or jail; compared to today, African Americans are 6.4 times as likely as whites to be incarcerated, which is especially troubling given that whites are also much more likely to be incarcerated now than they were in 1968.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear the inequalities and disparities that ignited hundreds of American cities in the 1960s still exist and have not been eliminated over the last half-century.

Fifty years ago, the Kerner Commission proposed bold recommendations to address the issues of poverty and racism that plague the African-American community, including:

Investments in housing programs to combat de facto segregation in communities;

Investments in K-12 and higher education to provide equal access to quality education;

Investments in job training programs to ensure equal employment opportunities.

Unfortunately, those recommendations have not been fully heeded over the past half-century.

The time has come for Congress to rededicate itself to making bold investments necessary to eliminate economic inequality of opportunity in every corner of our great nation.

If these investments are not made, our nation will remain separate and unequal for another 50 years.

I urge my colleagues in Congress, and all Americans, to look at what unites us rather than what divides us.

We are linked by our compassion, and bound by the fundamental edict of the American Dream that says we still strive to provide our children with a better life than we had.

We can, and we must, find the common ground necessary to make this dream a reality for Americans of every race and creed, nationality and religion, gender and sexual orientation; indeed for every American wherever he or she may live in this great land regardless of what he or she looks like or who they may love.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WALTER DARTLAND

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Walter Dartland—

a leader in Florida who recently lost his battle with lymphoma. He was a gentleman and an honest man.

Throughout his life, Walter worked to help people, whether that be in the Marine Corps, or as a university professor back home in Florida, he always gave of himself to better the lives of others.

Walter was an attorney by trade, and spent much of his life fighting for the “little guy” in consumer advocacy. In fact, one of his greatest achievements was Florida’s Lemon Law—protecting car buyers across the state from vehicles that were brand new, but faulty.

Walter dedicated his life to giving a voice to those who needed it most. Aside from advocacy, his wife of 36 years Diana, children, and grandchildren were the greatest joys in his life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Walter Dartland. He was a class act and a sincere advocate for the very best of America. Semper Fi.

HONORING MR. TOM COLE OF THE EAST KINGSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize Mr. Tom Cole who has served as a member of the East Kingston Fire Department for fifty years.

A broad thinker and steward of the Ulster County community, I admire Mr. Cole’s curiosity. Even though he has many years of experience, having served as Fire Chief and responded to many unique situations, Mr. Cole is an eager student, always willing to improve his skills and expand his knowledge.

Members of our local fire service play an important role in our Upstate communities, selflessly responding to emergency situations and safeguarding our neighborhoods. The commitment of Mr. Cole to our state through his fifty years with the East Kingston Fire Department is a milestone very few have reached. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Cole for his lifetime of hard work and dedicated service.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF MOUNT CLEMENS, MICHIGAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Mount Clemens, Michigan, as it celebrates its 200th Anniversary of its founding and designation as the county seat of Macomb County. I have been proud to represent this vibrant community for more than 25 years.

In 1818, Governor of the Michigan Territory, Lewis Cass, established the County of Macomb, and designated Mount Clemens, which had been settled by explorer Christian Clemens, as the county seat. When Michigan became the 26th state admitted to the Union in 1837, Clemens’s settlement was incor-

porated as a village and then later voted to become a city.

In the 1870’s mineral water wells were discovered throughout Mount Clemens and soon people from all over the world were traveling there to experience the healing waters, including Hollywood stars Clark Gable and Mae West, and sports icons Babe Ruth and Jack Dempsey. Mount Clemens became known as “Bath City” and the bath industry thrived in this community.

The “Capital of Macomb”, Mount Clemens, has a lot to offer its residents and the surrounding communities. Not only is it the hub of county government and services, but Mount Clemens is also the center of many cultural and recreational activities. It is home to vibrant institutions, including the Anton Art Center and the Crocker House Museum, along with several other historical museums. From its parks and riverfront to its growing downtown, the city offers many community concerts, festivals, and a weekly Farmers Market. And every Fourth of July, residents gather together for a bike parade through the neighborhood to celebrate the holiday.

Oakland University has a campus in downtown Mount Clemens, and the city is home to two strong hospital systems, McLaren Macomb and Henry Ford Macomb, and a community health center, MyCare. A favorite gathering place in the community is the Mount Clemens Public Library, one of the two oldest public libraries in Michigan.

Over the years, I have been especially grateful to be able to spend time with the students in Mount Clemens. Whether it’s been playing basketball with them at the Jermaine Jackson Community Center or talking to the students at the High School about the civil rights marches in Selma and the passing of the Voting Rights Act, I have seen firsthand their passion and thoughtfulness about the community and about important issues. My office has also worked closely with the community to support and grow the Mount Clemens Community Coalition for Youth and Families, a community anti-drug coalition leading the way in preventing substance abuse and creating a safe and healthy city for our young people.

Over the years, I have been proud to work with city leaders and to fight for federal dollars to support this hardworking community. The Recovery Act provided funding for public safety and public housing programs. And through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, the city was able to purchase several blighted and vacant residential buildings slated for demolition and acquire property to become part of Clemens Park.

Money through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has helped improve the Clinton River that flows through the city and supported habitat improvements on the Clinton River Spillway that connects the Clinton River to Lake St. Clair. We worked with the city of Mount Clemens to get funding to dredge the Clinton River channel in downtown. And we joined with other members of the delegation to bring funding to replace deteriorated sidewalks with pedestrian and bike trails.

Residents and leaders will gather on March 10, 2018, to celebrate the past, present and future of this great community. As the City of Mount Clemens commemorates this milestone, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leaders, residents, churches, businesses, and organizations that make this